

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06 OPIC-03

SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 IO-10 /086 W

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P R 241717Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4375

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5631

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 5606 DTG 231218Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: IN CLANDESTINE RADIO INTERVIEW SEP 23, RADICAL
COPCON OFFICER ADMITTED THEFT OF LARGE, BUT UNSPECIFIED
NUMBER OF G-3 AUTOMATIC RIFLES, SOME OF WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN
DISTRIBUTED TO FAR LEFT PRP-BR. AIRING OF INTERVIEW OVER WORKER-
CONTROLLED STATION IS FLAGRANT CHALLENGE TO ARMED FORCES AND
ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SORRY STATE OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE. IN
AIRPORT INTERVIEW PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA, SOARES RE-
EMPHASIZED PS DEDICATION TO AGRARIAN REFORM; AGRARIAN SECTOR
WILL ALSO BE PRIORITY PCP TARGET IN NEW GOVERNMENT. MEDIA
CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO WITH-
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DRAW TV CORRESPONDENT. A NEW EXILE ORGANIZATION -- MOVEMENT

OF NATIONAL SALVATION (MOSNA) -- HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED. END SUMMARY

1. MORE ON G-3'S: ONE OF THE AUTHORS OF THE RADICAL COPCON ALTERNATIVE TO THE ANTUNES MANIFESTO, CPT HENRIQUE FERNANDES, ADMITTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEFT OF LARGE, BUT UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF G-3 AUTOMATIC RIFLES FROM ARMY STOCKS. GERNANDES, WHO HAS GONE UNDERGROUND, MADE ADMISSION IN CLANDESTINE INTERVIEW BROADCAST OVER COMMUNIST-LINING RADIO CLUBE PORTUGUESE DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS SEPT 24. FERNANDES, SAID GUNS TAKEN NUMBERED CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN MEDIA HAD SPECULATED (PRESS HAS REPORTED NUMBER IN 1,000-3,000 RANGE). HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME, BUT NOT ALL, WEAPONS HAD ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO "PROGRESSIVE ELEMENTS," PRESUMABLY THE PRP-BR.

2. ANOTHER BOMB: AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WENT OFF IN MADEIRA NEAR MIDNIGHT SEPT 23 AT COOSOL COOPERATIVE SOME 45 KM. FROM FUNCHAL. THERE WERE NO INJURIES. INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONTINUING AND TWO INDIVIDUALS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN DETAINED.

3. SOARES ON AGRARIAN REFORM: IN AIRPORT INTERVIEW ON DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA, SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES GAVE PS VIEWS ON AGRARIAN REFORM. SOARES SAID BOTH PARTY AND PS AGRICULTURE MINISTER (LOPES CARDOSO) WERE DEDICATED TO AGRARIAN REFORM. BUT, HE ADDED, PARTY WAS AGAINST RECENT ABUSES COMMITTED IN NAME OF PROGRAM, INCLUDING: ABANDONMENT OF LAND TAKEN; FAILURE TO REPLANT CROPS AFTER INITIAL HARVEST; AND GENERAL RUNNING DOWN OF EXISTING STOCK OF CAPITAL IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR. IF ABUSES WENT UNCHECKED, SOARES SAID, RESULT WOULD NOT BE AGRARIAN REFORM BUT RATHER POORER RURAL WORKERS.

4. PIRES VELOSO MEETS UNIT COMMANDERS: BG PIRES VELOSO, CONTINUING THE FAST PACE HE HAS SET SINCE TAKING OVER COMMAND OF THE NORTHERN MILITARY REGION, MET SEPT 23 AT VILA REAL WITH UNIT COMMANDERS TO REVIEW THE POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION IN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. TOPICS DISCUSSED REPORTEDLY INCLUDED: SUPPORT FOR ANGOLAN RETURNEES; SUPPORT FOR "AUTHENTIC" POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS; MILITARY DISCIPLINE, REVISION OF THE CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION PROGRAM; AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMPROVED INFORMATION COLLECTION APPARATUS TO ENABLE REGIONAL COMMAND CONFIDENTIAL

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TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION TO MEDIA.

5. SPANISH TV INCIDENT: LISBON MEDIA SEPT 24 STRONGLY CRITICIZED SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RECALL ITS OFFICIAL TV CORRESPONDENT IN LISBON (REFTEL). GOP-OWNED TV NETWORK'S SEPT 23 EVENING NEWSCASTS CARRIED REPORT ON INCIDENT WITH PAINED COMMENT THAT WHATEVER THE SPANISH DID THEY COULD NOT SUFFOCATE FREE EXPRESSION IN PORTUGAL. PRESS COVERAGE

HINTED THAT INCIDENT COULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT SPANISH-PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS; MADRID-DATELINED REPORT IN SEPT 24 GOP-FINANCED "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" CITED SPANISH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT "IT IS NOT KNOWN AT THE MOMENT IF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAVE BEEN PREJUDICED, BUT THEY CERTAINLY HAVE NOT BEEN IMPROVED."

6. NEW EXILE ORGANIZATION: COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" REPORTED SEPT 24 THE EXISTANCE OF ANOTHER ANTI-GOVERNMENT EXILE ORGANIZATION. THE GROUP, IDENTIFIED AS MOSNA (MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION--MOVIMENTO DE SALVACAO NACIONAL), IS REPORTEDLY COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF LUSO-AMERICANS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

7. COMMENT: AIRING OVER WORKER-CONTROLLED RADIO OF CLANDESTINE INTERVIEW OF ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY OFFICER IS DIRECT CHALLENGE TO ARMED FORCES AND MOST FLAGRANT EXAMPLE YET OF MILITARY INDISCIPLINE. INCIDENT ADDED TO ACTIVE INSUBORDINATION BEING ORGANIZED WITHIN ARMED FORCES BY SUV, WHICH EARLIER IN WEEK STAGED SIMILAR CLANDESTINE INTERVIEW, UNDERSCORES HOW FAR BREAK-DOWN IN DISCIPLINE IN ARMED FORCES HAS GONE.

8. SOARES IMPROMPTU COMMENTS ON PROBLEMS OF THE AGRARIAN SECTOR INDICATE THAT HE, AND PS, ARE WELL AWARE OF SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEMS IN THIS SECTOR. PCP HAS MARKEDLY INCREASED ITS EMPHASIS ON AGRARIAN REFORM PROBLEMS IN RECENT WEEKS, SIGNALLING THAT PCP INTENDS TO MAKE AGRARIAN SECTOR A PRIMARY TARGET DURING SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE NAMING OF A PCP MEMBER (ANTONIO BICA) TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRARIAN ORGANIZATION WILL PLACE ADDITIONAL PRESSURES ON PS MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON05631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750331-0519
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750922/aaaaatjz.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 5606
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006